



**MEETING OF THE RETIREMENT BOARD  
OF THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES' AND OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND  
OF COOK COUNTY AND EX OFFICIO FOR THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
EMPLOYEES' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF COOK COUNTY  
33 N Dearborn St, Suite 1000  
Chicago, IL 60602**

**Minutes for the September 4, 2014 Meeting of the Board**

The County Employees' and Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Cook County and the Forest Preserve District Employees' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Cook County are herein collectively referred to as the "Fund."

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

**Trustees Present:** Alexis Herrera, Jack Fitzgerald, Diahann Goode, Brent Lewandowski, Patrick McFadden, Patrick Nester, Samuel Richardson, Jr. and Lawrence Wilson

**Staff Present:** Nickol R. Hackett, Executive Director & CIO; Michael Maratea, Director of Finance; Paul Rzeszutko, Director of Annuity Benefits; Brenda Deming, Director of Health Benefits; Gary LeDonne, Senior Benefit Advisor; Margaret Fahrenbach, Legal Adviser; Beverly Romanini, Office Manager

**Others Present:** Mary Pat Burns, Burke Burns & Pinelli, LTD; Eric Harris, Loop Capital; Abin Kuriakose, Commissioner Gainer's Office; Mia Cole Nelson, Teamster Union; Lepolean Redmond and Brenda Denson, Cynthia Dillard, Retiree; Linas Kelecious, Annuitant and Private Attorney

**Public Comment**

President Herrera opened the floor for public comment. Mr. Lepolean Redmond introduced himself and requested status of the application for a spouse annuity previously filed with the Fund. The Board told him that the application process was under review and that he would be contacted upon its completion.

**1. Review and Consideration of:**

- a. August 7, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes.

It was moved by Trustee Goode and seconded by Trustee Richardson that the minutes of the August 7, 2014, Board Meeting be adopted.

**Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE**

- b. Bills, Payroll Records, Annuities, Spouse and Child Annuities, Ordinary and Duty Disabilities, and Refunds.

The Fund's monthly bills and payroll records were presented for the Board's approval.

It was then moved by Trustee McFadden and seconded by Trustee Richardson that the action taken by the Fund's staff in remitting payments for the presented bills and payroll records be approved.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Fitzgerald, Goode, Herrera, Lewandowski, McFadden, Nester,  
Richardson, Wilson

NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

- c. Annuities, Spouse and Child Annuities and Refunds

The Fund's staff presented their recommendations to the Board regarding the applications for annuities, spouse and child annuities and refunds and confirmed that they followed the Fund's procedures in reviewing and processing the applications in making their recommendations.

It was then moved by Trustee Richardson and seconded by Trustee Nester, after due consideration of the applications presented to the Board and having received confirmation from the staff that they followed the Fund's procedures in reviewing and processing the applications, that the recommendations for the presented annuities and refunds be approved.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Fitzgerald, Goode, Herrera, Lewandowski, McFadden, Nester,  
Richardson, Wilson

NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

- d. Ordinary and Duty Disabilities

The Fund's staff presented their recommendations to the Board regarding the applications for ordinary and duty disability benefits and confirmed that they followed the Fund's procedures in reviewing and processing the applications in making their recommendations.

It was moved by Trustee Goode and seconded by Trustee McFadden, after due consideration of the disability applications presented to the Board and having received confirmation from the staff that they followed the Fund's procedures in reviewing and processing the applications, that the recommendations for the presented disability applications be approved.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Fitzgerald, Goode, Herrera, Lewandowski, McFadden, Nester,  
Richardson, Wilson

NAYS: None

Vote Result: MOTION ADOPTED

2. Administrative Report

a. Organization Update

Nickol Hackett, Executive Director and CIO presented the administrative report. She stated that the Fund was continuing its verification audit of the annuitants as had been approved by the Board's at their meeting on June 5, 2014. Michael Maratea, Director of Finance, reported that the audit's purpose was to verify that only those annuitants eligible for benefits were receiving them and that if the annuitant could not be verified, then the benefit would be suspended. To date, the process has confirmed the deaths of three members and all benefits paid to those deceased members have been recovered. Mr. Maratea further reported that benefits for two members had been suspended effective July 1, 2014, but were reinstated once the Fund received verification about each of those members. Two more suspensions are scheduled to be initiated with the annuity payments due on October 1, 2014. The Board then discussed the need to continue the verification audit to ensure that benefits were paid properly and the need to report any suspected fraud as is required under Section 1-135 of the Illinois Pension Code.

3. Other Benefit Matters

a. Military Service – John D. Faron

Paul Rzeszutko, Director of Retirement Benefits presented a request made by John D. Faron that the time in which he may pay the contributions due for his periods of military service without interest be extended for an additional four years. Mr. Rzeszutko identified for the Board the contributions and interest that were due from Mr. Faron for each of his periods of military service. Mr. Rzeszutko stated that Mr. Faron was requesting more time to pay the contributions due for his military service without interest than was permitted under the Fund's policy and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act ("USERRA").

The Board discussed the requirements of USERRA and the Illinois Pension Code noting the Fund's compliance with both. It was further discussed that if the Fund is to allow more time to purchase military service credit without interest than required by USERRA, then the Pension Code should be amended to grant this provision.

It was moved by Trustee Lewandowski and seconded by Trustee McFadden that the request by Mr. Faron to extend the time in which to pay the contributions for his military service without interest be denied.

Vote Result:        **MOTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE**

4. Consideration of September 3, 2014 Health Benefits Committee Recommendations

Brenda Deming, Director of Health Benefits presented the recommendations made by the Health Benefits Committee at their meeting on September 3, 2014. The HBC recommended that the Fund subsidize members' health benefits at a rate of 52% for annuitants and 67% for survivors for each plan option in 2015. The HBC made recommendations to increase the member's copayments in 2015 under the pharmacy plan for the mail order 90 day supply. The recommendation was to increase the copayments for Generics from \$15 to \$20; for Preferred brands from \$50 to \$55 and for Non-preferred brands from \$85 to \$90.

It was moved by Trustee Goode and seconded by Trustee Lewandowski that the Board adopt the recommendations made by the Health Benefits Committee at their meeting on September 3, 2014 regarding the pharmacy plan to increase the member co-payments in 2015 under the pharmacy plan for the mail order 90 day supply for Generics from \$15 to \$20; for Preferred brands from \$50 to \$55 and for Non-preferred brands from \$85 to \$90.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES:                Fitzgerald, Goode, Herrera, Lewandowski, McFadden, Nester,  
Richardson, Wilson

NAYS:                None

Vote Result:        **MOTION ADOPTED**

It was moved by Trustee Lewandowski and seconded by Trustee Goode that the Fund provide subsidies for member health benefits in 2015 at a rate of 52% for annuitants and at rate 67% for survivors for each plan.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES:                Fitzgerald, Goode, Herrera, Lewandowski, McFadden, Nester, Wilson

NAYS:                Richardson

Vote Result:        **MOTION ADOPTED**

5. New Business

There was no old business or new business discussed.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Trustee McFadden and seconded by Trustee Goode to adjourn the meeting.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.